CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES
THE NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS CHAIR
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

ΜΑΝΤΑΤΟΦΟΡΟΣ

ΕΔΡΑ ΝΙΚΟΥ ΚΑΖΑΝΤΖΑΚΗ
MODERN GREEK STUDIES FOUNDATION

MANTATOPHOROS: "BEARER OF NEWS, MESSENGER"

Events

The Hon. Dimitris Avramopoulos Lectures at the Center for Modern Greek Studies May, 2003

The Honorable Dimitris Avramopoulos, the former mayor of Athens, Greece, delivered a lecture entitled, "Cities and International Diplomacy" at the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at SFSU, Friday, May 9, 2003.

This event was generously sponsored by the University Seminars Program of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, U.S.A. Mr. Avramopoulos studied Law and Political Science at the University of Athens and received his Masters degree in European Studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He joined the Greek diplomatic corps in 1980 and served in a variety of distinguished posts. He became a special diplomatic advisor to the former Greek Prime Minister, Constantine Mitsotakis. He was elected to Parliament and later mayor of Athens in 1995 and served in that capacity until the end of 2002. Mr. Avramopoulos is also the founder of the World Institute of Global and Cities' Diplomacy and the World Union of Olympic Cities. He is a member of numerous international organizations and has been the recipient of many prestigious awards and honors from many nations and institutions such as Austria, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden and The Vatican. Most recently he was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Politics at the JFK School of Government at Harvard University.

A reception sponsored by the Modern Greek Studies Foundation followed the talk.

Above, left to right: Prof. Martha Klironomos, Dean Paul Sherwin, Hon. Dimitris Avramopoulos, MGSF incoming President, Patricia Aleck, Outgoing MGSF President, Peter Haikalis

Costopoulos Foundation Gift

The Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantakis Chair at SFSU has recently received a gift of some $11,000 from the **J.F. Costopoulos Foundation.** The Foundationhas supported a number of Chairs in Modern Greek Studies abroad as well as supported a number of museum exhibitions and reserach projects in all aspects of Hellenic culture.

Ministry of Culture 2003 Conference in Thessaloniki

A meeting of Neohellenists teaching abroad was organized and hosted by Dr. Alcestis Soulogianni, Director of Cultural Relations of the Greek Ministry of Culture in Thessaloniki, Greece, March 21-24, 2003. A keynote address was given by the Minister of Culture, Mr. Evangelos Venizelos, who gave an overview of the Ministry's range of current projects, including the upcoming Olympic Games to be in held in Athens in 2004.

clockwise: Dr. Dia Philippides, Boston College, Prof. Martha Klironomos, Prof. Dimitris Tziovas, Univ. of Birmingham (UK), Dean Lilly Macrakis, Hellenic College (Brookline)

The meeting was attended by scholars in Modern Greek Studies from North and South America, Australia,

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Studying Greek in Greece

Maria Karkazis

The Institute for Balkan Studies' summer class of 2003

We all experience times in our lives that are memorable, awakening, and life changing. Such was my experience this summer studying in Greece. When my Spring semester came to a close last year, I would have never dreamed of the changes that my life was about to experience. It began when I learned about the possibilities of studying the Greek language in Greece through the Institute for Balkan Studies. At that point I had been formally studying Greek at San Francisco State University for exactly one year. Being a Greek-American, I have always struggled with the Greek language, but have always dreamed of one day possessing a formal knowledge of it. Therefore, as soon as I received the application for the program, I promptly completed all of the requirements and sent my application to the Greek Ministry of Culture, the organization sponsoring the program. This was an opportunity I had been waiting for all my life, yet I was a little apprehensive. What was I to expect? And how would I convince my managers at work to give me six weeks off? But when I received my letter of acceptance, I knew that the answer to these questions did not matter.

Slowly, we arrived one by one. As the hotel filled with colorful faces from so many different countries –36 to be exact– I realized how beautiful this experience was going to be. That night we had an opening ceremony, hosted by the Director, Constantine Dimadis. By 8 a.m. the second morning, we were all learning Greek at our designated levels. Language classes took place six days a week, for four hours a day followed by classes on Greek history and culture, which focused on different themes every week: Macedonian history and art, Greek folklore, the Cyprus issue, Byzantine history and art, as well as different genres of Greek literature. These courses were taught in both Greek and English. Each Sunday, we would take day trips to the historical sites of the Macedonian region: Amphipolis, Phillipi, Kavala, Vergina, Pella, Dion, and to the beautiful Prespa Lakes. The days were long and strenuous, for we were strongly encouraged to use the Greek language as the only medium of communication.

Maria, a Greek-American student at Ohio State University with Ms. Maria Karkazis

From this experience, I have gained a stronger knowledge of the Greek language, one that would not have been possible without such immersion. Along the way, I made many meaningful friendships and had an opportunity to discuss global issues with students from all over the world. The cross-cultural experience is one that I treasure the most. I find it hard to describe the peacefulness of learning a language in such a multi-ethnic environment. It was as if we were all the same in the process of learning

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The Hellenic Students' Association

The Hellenic Students' Association welcomes Hellenes and Philhellenes to its membership and has the goal of promoting Modern Greek Studies, Greek Culture and Language at San Francisco State University. Additionally, the HAS endorses and supports the efforts of Dr. Klironomos and the Board of Directors of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation in their effort to develop and implement courses in Modern Greek Studies.

The Hellenic Students' Association (HSA) was re-formed last year under the stewardship of Daniel Elash who served as President in 2002-2003. Under Daniel's leadership, a new constitution was written and adopted. New officers were elected at the close of the Spring Semester for 2003-2004: Katharine Phipps (President); Maria Karkazas (Secretary) and George Tsoutsis (Treasurer).

Our first of event of the year was a dinner at the home of Katharine Phipps on November 5, 2003. This was an opportunity to speak with professors in Modern Greek Studies, meet fellow students and learn about upcoming courses and events.

The HSA may be contacted at:

Hellenic Students' Association
c/o OSPLD SFSU - SSB 101
1600 Holloway
S.F. CA 94132
e-mail at sfsu_hsa@yahoo.com

Spring 2004 Classes

MGS/GRE 151 **Modern Greek II** **M/W 2:10-3:25**

Instructor: **Despina Spanidis**. *Continuation of Modern Greek I. Basic oral expression, listening comprehension, reading and writing will be emphasized.* **This is a GE course. [3 units]**

MGS/GRE 470 **Modern Greek IV** **Tu/Th 4:10-5:25**
Instructor: **Despina Spanidis** *A continuation of Modern Greek III. Accelerated emphasis on conversation, grammar, reading, and writing in contemporary Greek.*
Pre-requisite: MGS 150, MGS 151, MGS 365 or equivalent. **[3 units]**

MGS 510/CLAS 510/HIST 326 **Byzantine Civilization.** **Th 7-10 p.m.**
Instructor: **Thalia Anagnostopoulos.** *Political, social, economic and cultural history of the Byzantine empire from the 7th to the 15th centuries.* **[3 units]**

HUM 375 **Biography of a City: Athens** **Tu 6-9 p.m.**
Instructor: **Prof. Martha Klironomos.** *Cultural, intellectual and literary impulses that have shaped ancient and modern Athens.* **[3 units]**

MGS 397/ENG 398 **Greek American Literature** **M 6-9 p.m.**
Instructor: **Prof. Martha Klironomos.** *New course! A survey of the major Greek American writers of the twentieth century. The development of the Greek American communities will be discussed in the broader context of the Hellenic diaspora. Authors and filmmakers to be discussed include Petrakis, Papanikolas, Kazan, Spanidou, and Eugenides.* **[3 units]**

MGS 152 **Modern Greek Conversation** **M 7-9 p.m.**
Instructor: **Katerina Chiotis.** Offered through the College of Extended Learning. *Basic conversational skills for the beginning student in Modern Greek.* **[2 units]**

Registration Information

Spring 2004 classes begin Wednesday January 28, 2004. Registration begins in November 2003. ***San Francisco State University*** students should register through SFSU. Through **Open University** anyone who is not formally admitted to SFSU may participate in regular university classes. Registration is easy; formal admission to SFSU is not required. Call 415- 405-7700 for more information. Check the Continuing Education website for further explanation: http://www.cel.sfsu.edu. Go to "Open University" from there.

High school students who will have completed their junior year by June may register with the written support of their principal or counselor accompanying their registration form and fees. Please contact the Registrar's office at (415) 338-2350 before registration to determine if you are eligible for Open University. ***There are several special programs for those wishing to return to college or to just take courses for personal enrichment. Call 415-338-2143 for more information or consult the SFSU website.***

For further information call the Center for Modern Greek Studies at 415-338-1892.

Athena Vutiritsas Honored at MGSF Board Luncheon

Hariklia Boone presented Ms. Athena Vutiritsas with a bouquet of roses

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation held its annual meeting and awards luncheon at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo on September 13th. Connie Aretos Banis was Chair of the event. Peter Haikalis was Master of Ceremonies. The event honored Athena Vutiritsas who was instrumental in the formation and development of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Hariklia Boone presented Ms. Vutiritsas with a bouquet of roses. In her honor, the MGSF presented a $500 donation to the Kazantzakis Chair Endowment Fund. This donation was matched by Christina Marcopoulos, sister of Athena Vutiritsas. We have reproduced here Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris', the former Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, remarks about Athena at the meeting:

"The person we honor today is one of the central pillars of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Happily, for me and the other founding members of the Foundation, Athena was with us from the very beginning of our efforts, back in 1981. Happily again, she was selected to be the Secretary of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Directors, and served in this key position for several consecutive terms—served with unparalleled skill and dedication. And, she has continued to support the goals of the Foundation down to the present day.

Athena's background experience at a prestigious San Francisco law office had molded her into an expert watchdog and wise consultant, exactly what the newly-formed organization needed in order to move ahead. I witnessed this widely ranging function of Athena's during our Executive Committee and Board meetings as well as during our long pre-meeting telephone conversations in preparation for these meetings. For more than a decade, she guided me and the first president of the Foundation, Senator Nicholas Petris, toward a more effective leadership. Without her skillful and dedicated service, the Foundation would not have made its early crucial strides forward.

But, there is another side to Athena that I would like to recognize in this brief and inadequate enconium: that is, her exceptional grounding in, and love for, the culture of Greece, the entire Hellenic Heritage – from history to Orthodoxy, from literature to music.

Ms. Patricia Aleck assumes Role of MGSF President

former MGSF President, Peter Haikalis, hands over the reins to Pat Aleck

And this last word – music– reminds me to add that I was frequently delighted during rides to Foundation meetings to hear Athena's marvelous operatic voice singing early Greek songs, classics that I, myself, was not familiar with. I was sorry that I could not give Athena a ride here today so that I could hear a song or two on the way. Instead, her sister, Christina Marcopulos, drove Athena here and is now with us. Mrs. Marcopulos herself has been a caring guide to people. From her position in the Registrar's Office at San Francisco State University, she generously helped numerous Greek students – especially students from Greece – through confusing paths. Christina even helped new faculty like myself, when I joined in the late Sixties.

Back to Athena, and, in conclusion, I like to say that it would be a blessing if Athena's example, together with the Foundation's and the Center's educational work, inspired others to become new Athenas, dedicated to fostering the Hellenic Heritage.

Congratulations Athena! You have gained our admiration and our gratitude!"

—Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris. September 13, 2003

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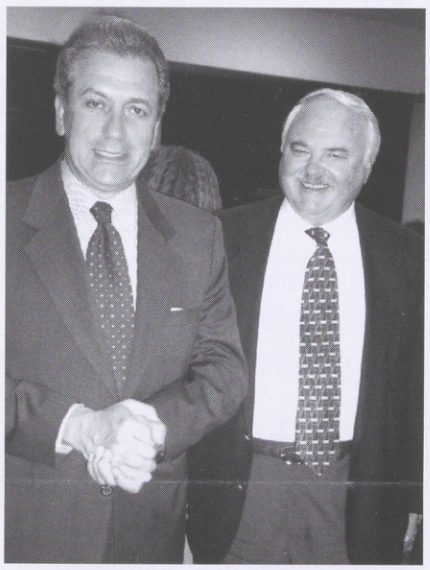
Unidentified guest with Lilica Anderson, George Konstantopoulos with Hon. Dimitris Avramopoulos



Hon. Dimitris Avramopoulos with Hon. Ted Laliotis

Hon. Dimitris Avramopoulos and Steven Mavromihalis

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2003 MASKALERIS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation announces the 2003 winner for the Maskaleris Scholarship, honoring Thanasis Maskaleris, founding director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University (1981-1996).

This year the Modern Greek Studies Foundation awarded two one-year scholarships, each $600, to **Daniel Elash** and **Maria Karkazis.** Both Mr. Elash and Ms. Karkazis are undergraduate students in Modern Greek at SFSU. Awards are based on academic achievement, leadership, service, and financial need for continuing undergraduate or graduate students pursuing Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University.

Event photographs courtesy of Anne Condas

Studying Greek in Greece, (continued from p. 2)

a new medium in which we could communicate. Outside the classroom we would teach each other our native tongues, as well as talk about current issues in our countries.

From this experience, I gained a broader knowledge of the Greek language and culture. I was exposed to Thessaloniki, and the Macedonian region for the first time, and I even learned some French and German along the way. But, the most valuable of my experiences was the time I shared with my family in Trahila (which means "triton"). Trahila is a small village in the region of Mani about 45 minutes south of Kalamata. This was my first time visiting my grandparents alone. And, as my days there were filled with the sounds of singing and laughter, swimming, walks through the olive groves and stories of happiness as well as hardship, I realized I had finally come home. Needless to say, I am searching for more avenues to study abroad in graduate studies.

(Thessaloniki Conference, continued from p. 1)

and Europe to discuss activities and needs of Modern Greek Studies programs outside Greece. Professor Klironomos gave a presentation representing the Modern Greek Studies Association of America, focusing on diaspora issues and on the needs of undergraduate programs and made a number of practical suggestions for curriculum development and technical enhancements, based on a survey distributed to a number of colleagues who teach Modern Greek Studies in the U.S.

Greek American Oral History Project Update

The Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University, with funding by the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, has established the Northern California Greek American Archive. The Archive's long-term goal is to document the history of local Greek immigrants and Greek Americans from the earliest immigrations through the twentieth century and continue as an ongoing project into the present millennium. The Archive will focus on the history of Greek Americans in northern California but primarily focus on the Bay Area. Oral histories and related memorabilia, such as photographs, are stored electronically in the Archive.

We have completed more than a dozen oral histories, Transcription of the recordings has been initiated. The Archive has also begun a collection of periodicals related to Greek Americans.

Shay Cannedy is the Archives Assistant for 2003-2004. She is an Anthropology graduate student at SFSU, and is coordinating the volunteer interviewers. Anyone wishing to volunteer to interview Bay Area Greek immigrants and Greek Americans should please call Shay at the Center. We are currently also soliciting names of candidates to be interviewed.

Fall 2003 Classes

MGS/GRE 150 **Instructor: Despina Spanidis**	**Modern Greek I** Introduction to the Modern Greek language.
MGS/GRE 365 **Instructor: Despina Spanidis**	**Intermediate Modern Greek III** A continuation of Modern Greek II.
MGS/GRE 555 **Instructor: Prof. Martha Klironomos**	**Intro to Modern Greek Literature** Introduction to Greece's major authors in the original, as well as an introduction to Greek music and film.
CWL/MGS/CW 465 **Instructor: Prof. Martha Klironomos**	**Modern Greek Poetry** A survey of Greece's most prominent male and female poets of the twentieth century.
MGS/ANTHRO 316 **Instructor: Dr. Roland S. Moore**	**Contemporary Greece** Anthropological research on central aspects of culture and society in Modern Greece.
MGS 152 **Instructor: Katerina Chiotis**	**Modern Greek Conversation** Offered through the College of Extended Learning,

September 16, 2003 at SFSU

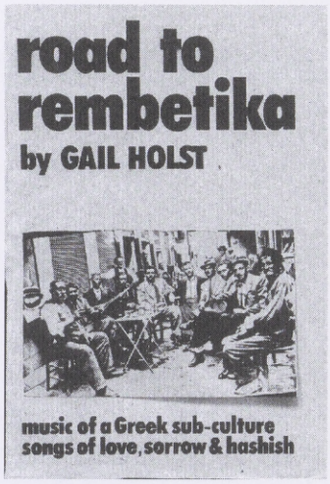
Eleni Bastéa gave a slide lecture on ***Athens, 1896: Karaghiozes and the Olympic Games,*** based on her book, *The Creation of Modern Athens: Planning the Myth* (Cambridge, 2000). This was an interesting look at the development of modern Athens through the story of the 1896 Olympics and Karaghiozes performances. Bastéa is an Associate Professor in Architecture at the University of New Mexico.

(left: Eleni Bastéa)

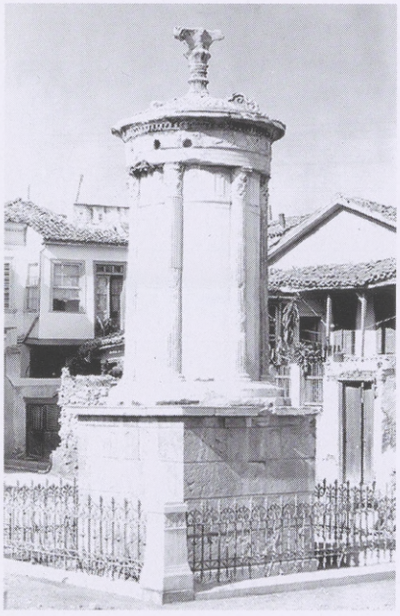
November 16, 2003, 3 p.m at the Annunciation Cathedral

Screening of the video: ***The Greeks of Southern California -- through the Century "The Pioneers: 1900-1942" narrated by Olympia Dukakis and John Kapelos***. This event was presented by The Hellenic American Professional Society of Northern California, the Modern Greek Studies Foundation and the Center for Modern Greek Studies.

December 4th, 2003, 6 p.m. in Humanities Building 587, SFSU



An academic, musician and translator, **Gail Holst-Warhaft,** Adjunct Professor in Modern Greek at Cornell University, will present a lecture entitled: ***Rembetika: the Blues of Greece.*** Prof. Holst-Warhaft is the author of a number of studies including: *The Cue for Passion: Grief and Its Political Uses* (Harvard University Press, 2000); *Road to Rembetika: Music of a Greek Sub-Culture* (D. Harvey, 1975, 1994); *Dangerous Voices: Women's Laments and Greek Literature* (Routledge, 1992); *Mikis Theodorakis: Myth and Politics in Modern Greek Music* (Hakkert, 1980).



The Choragic Monument of Lysicrates, Athens. Photograph taken by George Swain in 1920 during the first Kelsey expedition.

April 24, 2004, 7:30 p.m. in Humanities 133, SFSU

Artemis Leontis, Adjunct Professor and Coordinator of the Modern Greek Program at the University of Michigan, will present a slide-lecture entitled, ***Distracted by Modernity: Classicist Francis W. Kelsey, Eye-Witness to the Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire.***

A little-known resource for developments in Asia Minor and Anatolia immediately preceding World War I, the **Archive of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan** is the source for Prof. Leontis' latest research. The Archive includes papers and photos of classicist Francis W. Kelsey. He made four expeditions to the Eastern Mediterranean between 1919 to 1926. He visited and photographed the burned city of Smyrna in 1924, as well as Constantinople, Adana, Aintab, Patmos, and Athens. Prof. Leontis is the author of *Topographies of Hellenism: Mapping the Homeland* (Cornell University Press, 1995), and *Greece* (Whereabouts Press, 1997).

March 6, 2004, 7:30 p.m. in Humanities 587, SFSU

Anca Vlasopolos, Professor of English Literature at Wayne State University, will read from her memoir, ***No Return Address: A Memoir of Displacement.*** Reviewed in the summer 2002 edition of *Mantatophoros,* Anca Vlasopolos' memoir recounts a daughter's recollections of a Greek-Jewish family in Romania and their multiple relocations from Eastern Europe to the United States in the aftermath of the Holocaust. A writer and an academic, Vlasopolos was born in Romania but now resides in Detroit, Michigan.

credit: photograph on p. 8 from a Kytherian family scrapbook

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MANTATOPHOROS Fall 2003

Keeping in Touch

If you are interested in receiving announcements about our lectures and other special events held at the Center for Modern Greek Studies at SFSU, call the Center **(415) 338-1892** or send a note to the mailing address. We regularly advertise our events in *The Hellenic Journal,* and in the SFSU *Campus Memo.* If you wish to be included, on our e-mail list, e-mail us at **modgreek@sfsu.edu**

Our current course offerings, lecture schedule and other information about the Center for Modern Greek Studies can be found on our web site:

http://www.sfsu.edu/~modgreek

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